And, which is worse, within thy nasty mouth [4]!
I do retort the *solus* in thy bowels:
For I can take [5], and Pistol's cock is up,
And flashing fire will follow.

NYM. I am not Barbason; you cannot conjure me[6]. I have an humour to knock you indifferently well: If you grow foul with me, Pistol, I will scour you with my rapier, as I may, in fair terms: if you would walk off, I would prick your guts a little, in good terms, as I may: and that's the humour of it.

PIST. O braggard vile, and damned furious wight!
The grave doth gape, and doting death is near[7];
Therefore exhale[8]. *[PISTOL and NYM draw.*

[4] — thy NASTY mouth!"] The quartos read: ----*messful* mouth. STEEVENS.

[5] For I can TAKE,] I know not well what he can *take.* The quarto reads *talk.* In our author " to take," is sometimes 'to blast/which sense may serve in this place. JOHNSON".

The old reading, " I can take," is right, and means, * I can take fire.* Though Pistol's cock was up, yet if he did not take fire, no flashing could ensue. The whole sentence consists in allusions to his name. M. MASON.

The folio here, as in two other places, corruptly reads—take.
See vol. xi. p. 137, n. 6. MALONE.

[6] I am not BARBASON; you cannot CONJURE me.] *Barbason* is the name of a *dæmon* mentioned in The Merry Wives of Windsor, vol. viii. p. 91, n. 2. The unmeaning tumour of Pistol's speech very naturally reminds Nym of the sounding nonsense uttered by *conjurers,* STEEVENS.

[7] — DOTING death is near;] Thus the folio. The quarto has *groaning* death. JOHNSON.

[8] Therefore EXHALE.] *Exhale,* I believe, here signifies *draw,* or, in Pistol's language, *hale* or *lug out.* The stage-direction in the old quarto, *[They drawe.~]* confirms this explanation. MALONE.

** Therefore exhale " means only—* therefore breathe your last, or die.' a threat common enough among dramatick heroes of a higher rank than Pistol, who only expresses this idea in the fantastick language peculiar to his character.

In Chapman's version of the eighteenth Iliad, we

are told that